Annex "A," Subparagraph 2h, Political Background

BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY PERSONALITIES

127 The author of this report has had very little basic information on the career of Hungarian key personalities. The contents of this subparagraph are largely based on the mimeographed pamphlet compiled by Imre Kovács entitled Short Biographical Studies ... (New York: National Committee for a Free Europe, 1951. Pp. 14). The cabinet changes, so frequent in Communist countries, which have occurred in the period between the publication of Mr. Kovács's pamphlet and April, 1955, are noted here but, for the rest of the data, Kovács's information is extensively quoted.

665 As in any Communist country, the central power in the State is in the hands of the Communist Party which, in Hungary, bears the name of Magyar Dolgozók Pártja 'Hungarian Workers' Party.' The leadership of the Party is, for all intents and purposes, the depositor of political power. The latest elections to the highest posts in the party took place on May 30, 1954, with the following results:

First Secretary of the Central Committee: Mátyás Rákosi.

Members of the Political Committee: Mátyás Rákosi, Imre Nagy (ousted in 1955), Ernő Gerő, Mihály Farkas (ousted in 1955) Lajos Ács, István Hidas, Antal Apró, András Hegedüs, Béla Szalai. (Added in 1955: István Kovács, József Mekis.)